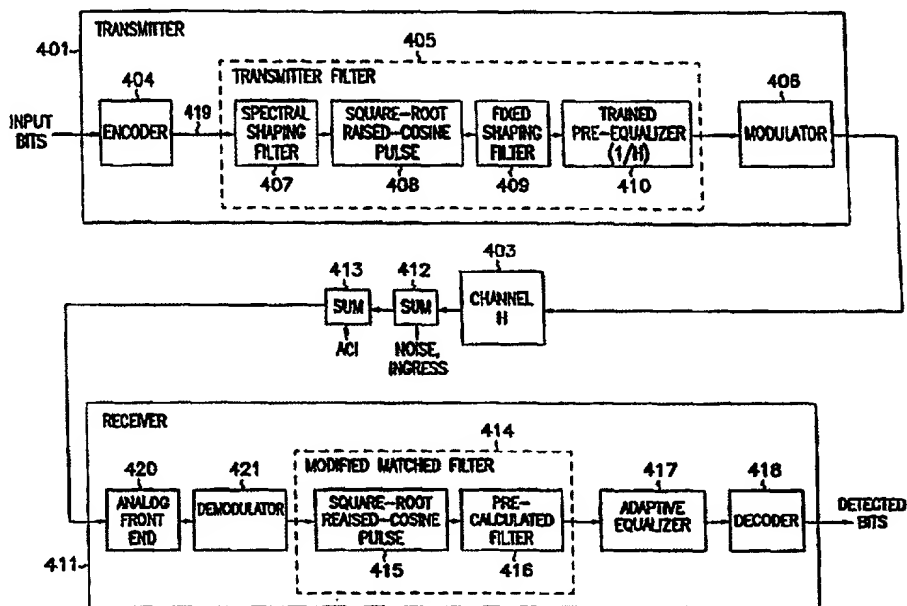




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(57) Abstract

In a cable television (CATV) data communication network, channel throughput and communications robustness are increased in a manner that improves speed of data transmission while maintaining compatibility with existing specifications and equipment. Enhanced throughput can be realized using the return channel of the CATV network. Alternatively, data retransmission and/or diversity techniques can be used to improve throughput.